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Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00
L-03 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 ICA-11 /095 W
----------053053 091912Z /45
P R 091815Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2412
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSYY TOKYO
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO

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EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, BEXP, TD
SUBJECT: AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES BETWEEN U.S. AND TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO

REF: (A) PORT OF SPAIN 1421, (B) PORT OF SPAIN 1303, (C) PORT
OF SPAIN 1309

1. MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE GEORGE CHAMBERS ANNOUNCED IN PARLIAMENT ON MAY 5 THAT AIR SERVICE BETWEEN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND MIAMI (WITH INTERMEDIATE STOPS IN BARBADOS AND JAMAICA) WOULD BE RESTORED "IN A MATTER OF DAYS." SERVICE IS TO USE DC-9 AIRCRAFT NOW OWNED BY BWIA. THESE PLANES HAVE BEEN ON LOAN TO TTAS, THE CARRIER DESIGNATED TO SERVE THE DOMESTIC ROUTE BETWEEN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. WE UNDER-
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STAND THAT TTAS AND POSSIBLY SOME OTHER PILOTS ARE BEING TRAINED TO FLY THESE AIRCRAFT, ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF PILOTS AVAILABLE MAY BE SUFFICIENT FOR ONLY TWO OR THREE FLIGHTS TO U.S. PER WEEK. CHAMBERS DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER FLIGHTS WOULD BE UNDER AEGIS OF BWIA, TTAS, OR THE AS YET UNNAMED NATIONAL CARRIER WHICH IS ABSORB BOTH EXISTING LINES.

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2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF PRO-
CEDURES FOR APPLICATION FOR PERMIT FOR SERVICE TO U.S.
IN THE EVENT FLIGHTS ARE RUN BY TTAS OR NEW AIRLINE.
WE ASSUME FOREIGN AIR CARRIER PERMIT FROM CAB WOULD
BE REQUIRED, BUT DO NOT KNOW THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS
FOR FILING FOR PERMIT. ALSO, WE ASSUME THAT
CARRIER WOULD HAVE TO BE DESIGNATED TO SERVE ROUTES
NOW ASSIGNED TO BWIA, AS NOTED REF (A). CAN THIS
BE DONE SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH APPLICATION FOR PERMIT,
OR MUST PERMIT BE ISSUED FIRST?

3. ACTING DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION SAID HE ASSUMED
GOVERNMENT "IS DOING ITS HOMEWORK" IN THIS REGARD,
BUT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY TO BE IN A POSITION
TO ANSWER QUESTIONS WHICH MIGHT ARISE IN TRANSFER OF
SERVICES FROM BWIA TO ITS SUCCESSOR.

4. CHAMBERS ALSO INDICATED THAT GOTT WILL BEGIN
NEGOTIATIONS IMMEDIATELY TO WET LEASE TWO WIDE-BODIED
AIRCRAFT (PRESUMABLY BOEING 747S OR DC-10S) FOR SERVICE
TO LONDON VIA BARBADOS.

5. CHAMBERS TOLD THE HOUSE THAT PM WILLIAMS HAD
REQUESTED TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FROM JAPAN
(EVIDENTLY THE "FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT" REFERRED TO IN
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REF C), THROUGH AMBASSADOR SHINICHI SUGIHARA (BASED
IN CARACAS AND ACCREDITED TO T&T), ON THE ACQUISITION
OF AIRCRAFT. SUGIHARA SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED THAT
WILLIAMS HAD ASKED FOR MORE THAN TECHNICAL ADVICE AND
ASSISTANCE ON CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS IN GENERAL.
SUGIHARA REPORTEDLY SAID HE HAD RELAYED GOTT REQUEST
TO TOKYO BUT COULD NOT SAY WHAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S
RESPONSE WOULD BE.

6. COMMENT: A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS REMAIN BEFORE
DECISIONS ANNOUNCED BY CHAMBERS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED,
ASISDE FROM THE LANDING RIGHTS ISSUE--MANAGEMENT,
LEGAL STATUS OF AIRLINE, FLIGHT CREWS, SCHEDULING,
ETC. THE ANNOUNCEMENT DOES INDICATE THAT THE GOHH
IS FEELING THE PRESSURE OF THE HIGH COST AND DETERIORATION
OF AIR SERVICE RESULTING FROM BWIA'S SHUTDOWN, AND
IS MOVING TO RESTORE AT LEAST LIMITED FLIGHTS AS
SOON AS THE LEGAL PROBLEMS CAN BE WORKED OUT.
FOX

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR ROUTE APPLICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780578/aaaacotw.tel
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TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, BEXP, TD, US, BWIA, TTAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
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